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Bangalore Mirror

TEMP Max 28 | Min 18 | Humidity 88% Generally cloudy sky Sensex 60,927 | Nifty 18,132 | Gold 54,781 | Silver 69,513 | Dollar 82.87 | Euro 88.09 | GBP 99.63

Just 10% schools in Bengaluru urban district, 8.26% schools in rural district have access to internet/computer labs, data shows

TECH NO LOGIC

24.2% govt schools have internet/computers nationwide

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In the recent report on the state of schools across the country, it was revealed that very few government schools in Karnataka have access to internet and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) labs. As per the Unified District System for Education Plus (UDISE+) report, hardly around 10% of schools have these facilities in Bengaluru Urban district.

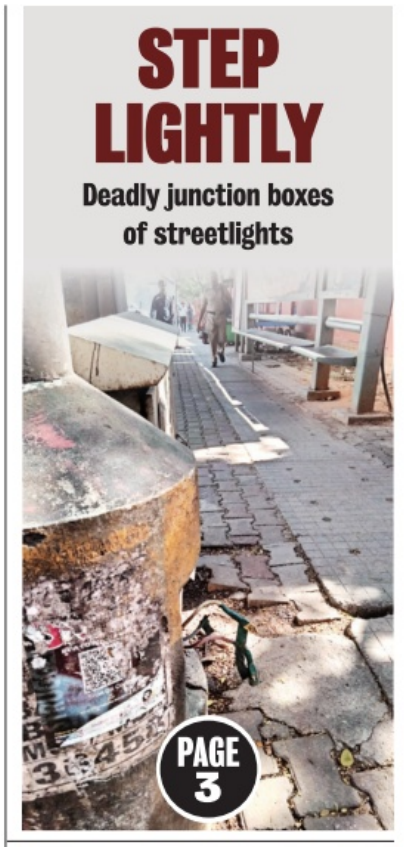
Data showed that only 10.72% schools in north Bengaluru urban district and 12.57% in south Bengaluru urban district, and 8.26% government schools in the rural district have internet facilities. At the same time, 15% of government schools having classes VI and above have ICT labs already available.

Lack of internet and computer lab facilities in government schools can make students feel inferior and incompetent, according to experts.

"Due to excessive privatisation and commercialisation of the education sector in the state, the quality of public education has gone

CONTINUED ON PAGE 6 »

> **"Internet facilities and computer labs are still far-fetched, schools do not even have basic facilities**
>
> —Niranjan Aradhya, public education expert



3 THINGS TO DO

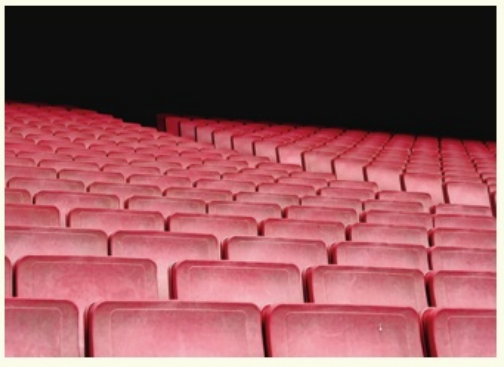
01 Musical beats

End the year with a bang at Lulu Malls in the city. Grab the chance to attend a series of music performances, which would include hits of old time Bollywood, English, regional, contemporary and retro music. **Where: Lulu Malls, Rajajinagar**
When: December 28 to January 1; 6 pm to 9 pm

02 Science fun

Grab a chance to visit a forty-minute audio-visual programme, which will describe Darwin's journey to Galapagos Islands. The programme would also focus on the popular book of his 'On the Origin of Species by means of Natural Selection'. Also get introduced to the night sky as seen from Bengaluru by attending the show 'Our Solar System'. **Where: Jawaharlal Nehru Planetarium**
When: Wednesday, December 28 – January 31

03 Play scenes



Don't miss a chance to visit the play that aims to explore the aspects of human feelings. By 2 Coffee brings performances that would stage the conflicting feelings between a mother and her son. The meaning of life perceived by both of them, the generational gap and more.
Where: Ranga Shankara
When: Wednesday, January 4; 7:30 pm

Check & checkmate

How an international academy and online community of chess enthusiasts training students to ace the game was born and how it has caught on in B'luru

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The game of chess is not just about moving through black and whites, and emerging as a champion, say chess enthusiasts. It is also about imbibing life lessons like strategy, failure, acceptance and possibility. You learn the power of patience, resilience and control.

In chess, even a well-thought-out move may not work. Your opponent may checkmate a carefully planned strategy. Chess players have to be prepared to accept and face every situation. It is also important not to give up. A winner is often a loser who tries one more time.

Enter the CHESS KLUB

When Archana Kolangara and Sudev Rajah launched CHESS KLUB, a knowledge-based community for chess lovers, little did they know how popular it would become in a short period of time.

This international online chess academy is for all levels of chess players, from the beginner, who can take his first step towards becoming a Master, to the Master who can enhance his or her skills to become a Grandmaster in the game.

Right at the start of the story

The origins of the CHESS KLUB can be traced back to the passion for chess that Archana and Sudev shared, even before they met.

"During my childhood days, I would play chess with my father who was one of the renowned chess players during his days. He introduced me to this wonderful game," remembers Archana.

Later, when she met her life partner, Sudev Rajah, he turned out to be even more passionate about chess than she was.

"I saw him develop and implement strategies and pave the way for himself, his employers, his clients, and business partners as if he was playing a game of chess. He would make one move at a time, always with a larger goal in mind," she says.

Both of them decided to start their academy, CHESS KLUB in February 2019.

"We started as a home-based business in Fort Mill, South Carolina, USA. Within just a few months, things exploded and we had more students than we could imagine," she adds.

Inset from top: Archana Kolangara and Sudev Rajah launched CHESS KLUB in February 2019 and Sahana Kulkarni is now director operations at the academy

The community grows

When the founders launched a CHESS KLUB centre in the USA, things started taking shape, and they started getting local media attention too. But when covid struck, the company had to move to an online forum.

Sahana Kulkarni, who is now director operations, CHESS KLUB had been working with Sudev and Archana for over a decade on several other projects. "When CHESS KLUB kicked off, we shifted our focus to building it as a brand together," says Sahana. "For the next two years, we focused on developing our online presence and when the covid pandemic eased, we opened our second centre in Bengaluru," she adds.

Students and tournaments

Apart from the coaching lessons, the students at CHESS KLUB are trained to get tournament-ready, depending on which stages of their chess career they are currently in. The tournaments vary from weekly, monthly, corporate, community, and society matches to international championships.

Join online

The robust online community comprises chess players, parents, chess coaches, and chess enthusiasts.

"We try to bring like-minded chess enthusiasts on one platform," explains Sahana. "There are plenty of discussions on chess- related topics, puzzle-solving and tournaments. We also try to provide free resources, chess merchandise and much more."

A measure of progress

A student's progress is monitored in many ways. "We look at their game history and analysis, puzzle-solving history, and assessments at various stages. Students also have one-on-one counselling sessions with the founders, on a need basis," she adds.

The coaches are either accomplished players turned coaches or certified coaches.

Sharpen your intellect with chess

The game of chess requires constant attention and concentration, which triggers every neuron in the brain, making chess the key to nurturing the mind. Experts say that chess has several benefits. It promotes logical and creative thinking, helps in processing information better, improves concentration and builds forward-thinking capabilities.

Keys to winning a chess game

A chess match is a challenge between two minds and requires a great deal of attention and concentration. Since chess is a game of strategy, the best way to win is to be two steps ahead of your opponent. "You have to get into the mind of the opponent and think what he or she is thinking. If the student can master this, then they can start winning game after game," says Sahana.

Today, CHESS KLUB has expanded to include other countries but most of the students are from the USA, Canada and India. They even have students who are as young as four-years-old.

What lies ahead

When asked about their future goals, the founders say they want to be synonymous with chess.

They plan to change the mindset of many future generations of players by teaching them how to master the game of chess and life.

Lights, action and shock therapy

Junction boxes of several streetlights lie open, exposing live wires that are threat to pedestrians

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It is true that the citizens want streetlights -- but not ones that can be life-threatening. The state of light poles on Magadi Road and Dr BR Ambedkar Veedhi indicates that the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is pretty lax about people's safety.

Most of the junction boxes of the streetlights are open, thus exposing live wires or wires that are partly insulated. These open junction boxes pose danger to the unwary pedestrians, especially children.

It may be recalled that BBMP and Bengaluru Electricity Supply Company (Bescom) officials decided during a coordination meeting to rectify around 8,000 street lights that were posing danger to the public. They identified street lights that needed to be maintained properly, street lights poles with broken junction boxes. The authorities concerned made a tall claim of having rectified around 8,000 street lights but in reality they are yet to complete the task.

"It is shocking to see the condition of the street lights on Magadi Road. The BBMP spent a lot of money to develop the footpath near Prasanna theater but conveniently forgot either to replace the old street light poles with new ones or to replace broken or damaged junction boxes for the safety of children and pedestrians," said Narayana Gowda, a resident of Vijayanagar.

A wire hangs out of a streetlight pole on Magadi Road (left) and some wires stick out of a junction box of a light at Dr BR Ambedkar Veedhi (above)

> **"The BBMP is spending a lot of money on installing bus shelters, improvement of footpaths and asphalting the roads but they are not focusing on damaged junction boxes of the street lights**
>
> – Jayakrishna A, college student

Condemning the BBMP for not fixing the junction boxes, Jayakrishna A, a college student, demanded that authorities concerned fix the problem as early as possible. "The BBMP is spending a lot of money on installing bus shelters, improvement of footpaths and asphalting the roads but they are not focusing on damaged junction boxes of the street lights," said Jayakrishna.

Demanding that the BBMP replace broken junction boxes of street lights in and around Cox Town, Bharathinagar Residents' Welfare Forum president NS Ravi said there were many street lights with no proper junction boxes. "The BBMP Street Lights Department must remove broken junction boxes and fix new ones as broken or open junction boxes pose danger to the public. It may not cost much money for the BBMP to replace broken junction boxes of street lights in and around Cox Town," said Ravi.

Meanwhile, BBMP Executive Engineer (Street Lights) Uma Devi Baligar said that most of the defunct street light poles have no junction boxes. "We have taken measures to replace broken junction boxes of street lights. I will depute my subordinates to the spot to fix those problems," said Baligar.

Stop, halt, go... Adaptive signals for 163 junctions on the cards

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The city is going to get adaptive signal lights at 163 junctions on high density corridors, said MA Saleem, Special Commissioner (Traffic).

"Next year, we will have adaptive signal lights in high-density areas but that will take time as we are yet to finalise it. We have timers in automatic signals but in the new generation adaptive signals we won't have timers as it depends upon the volume of traffic," said Saleem.

According to the data by the traffic police, the city has 40,000 intersections and 330 signalised intersections. Residents in the city say that there is a need for more traffic signals and timers at junctions.

"When you travel from Neelasandra to Ejipura or Koramangala, near the Ravi Tent bus stop area, there is always a traffic jam. The signal light is not functioning and it always shows yellow, which leads to chaos. I have noticed that people often break signals because the lights are not working causing accidents on the road," said Jinit, a frequent commuter to Koramangala.

He also added that there is no traffic signal near the Ravi tent bus stop, which increases the risk of accidents.

Another resident of the city, Shivani, says that she has witnessed several accidents while travelling towards Sarjapur Circle.

"There are no traffic signals or even police personnel in the area. Not only do we have to be stuck in traffic jams for hours, but we also have to witness accidents every day near the circle," she said.

Saleem added that the department is planning to install more traffic signals in the city with more focus on the outskirts.

"We are planning to add more traffic signals in areas like Sarjapur, JP Nagar, Sarakki, Magadi Road, Mysuru Road, and Bagalagunte in 2023," said Saleem.

For trip with girlfriend, man steals gold from own home

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A young man has been caught stealing gold from his own house for a trip with his girlfriend.

The man has been identified as Irfan and a case has been registered with Adugodi police station

Irfan is said to have had a crush on a young woman and he dreamed of going on a trip with her. Accordingly, both of them had made a plan to go to Goa by the end of the year. But they didn't have enough money to go on the trip.

Irfan, who stays with his brother, sister-in-law and mother, is unemployed.

So, one night he woke up when everyone in the house was sleeping and stole 103 grams of gold. Later, he went on a trip to Goa with his girlfriend with the money he got from selling the gold.

On the other hand, Irfan's family was worried about the theft. Following that, Irfan's brother filed a complaint at Adugodi police station. During the investigation, it was revealed that their family member had stolen the jewellery.

"Irfan has admitted that he stole the gold and sold it to go on a trip with his girlfriend. Irfan is currently in jail," said the police.

Attacked by delivery agent, man blames company

A man alleged that he had been attacked by a Zepto delivery boy in HSR police station limits. The victim, Parag Jain, took to Twitter on December 25, to share details of the incident.

"Last Sunday at HSR Layout, a Zepto delivery person was riding over the footpath and he almost ran me over but I quickly dodged myself. I politely told him to drive cautiously. He started pushing and hitting me," tweeted Parag.

A case has been registered regarding the incident at HSR police station.

Parag also added that it's not the fault of the delivery person, but the fault of Zepto because they pressurise their delivery persons to make shift deliveries.

"Zepto has created crazy pressure on delivery personnel to keep up with the 10-minute delivery promise. Behaviourally, it has made drivers more impatient and irresponsible," he added.

The victim had also contacted Zepto but he claims that they didn't take the incident seriously.

"I had a chat with the Zepto team, they were casual about the incident. As expected, they told me the person is not an employee but a third party resource," he added.

Kengeri Lake gets new lease of life after delay

BBMP finally starts rejuvenation; work to be completed in six months

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KAUSHIK JN

Work in progress at the Kengeri Lake site; the palike has sanctioned Rs 4 crore for the rejuvenation work

Good news awaits residents of Kengeri and surrounding areas. The Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) Lakes Department has commenced the much-delayed rejuvenation of Kengeri Lake. The BBMP has taken up the project at an estimated cost of Rs 4 crore. The civic body had issued the work order last month.

"We have sanctioned Rs 4 crore for the rejuvenation of Kengeri Lake. The rejuvenation work is in progress and is expected to be completed in six months," said BBMP Chief Engineer (Lakes Department) Vijaykumar Haridas.

The rejuvenation of Kengeri Lake has been pending for many years. The lake was rejuvenated and developed in 2005 by the state forest department, and later, it was handed over to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA), which in turn handed it over to Bangalore Metropolitan Rail Corporation (BMRCL) in 2012. However, BMRCL failed to develop the lake due to unknown reasons.

Bangalore Mirror
Flow of life in Kengeri

BM's report on May 14, 2022 spoke about the BBMP's prior announcement to start rejuvenation work at the site

Finally, the BBMP Lakes Department floated a tender last May, inviting the bidders for the revival of the lake. Bangalore Mirror published a story – Flow of life in Kengeri – on May 14, 202, narrating the plight of the lake and how it is going to be revived.

"I am happy to know about the BBMP Lakes Department's initiative to rejuvenate Kengeri Lake. I want the BBMP or state government to facilitate overflowing water from Dubasipalya Lake flow into Kengeri Lake. It will avoid wastage of water and help improve groundwater around the lake," said A Satyanarayana, a resident of the area.

Demanding the BBMP authorities to ensure quality in their work on Kengeri Lake, Prashanth K, another resident, said that BBMP Lakes Department is known for apathy and negligence. "Kengeri Lake should not be added to the list of lakes that are developed and forgotten. The problem with the BBMP Lakes Department is that it will not bother to maintain the lakes that are rejuvenated by spending crores of rupees," he said.

According to the rejuvenation plan, the lake, that spreads over 32 acres and one guntas, has to be dewatered and desilted at an estimated cost of Rs 72,12,345. Protection of the main bund (760 meters) is estimated to cost around Rs 39,23,648. Improvements to walkway bund (890 meters) are expected to cost about Rs 33,30,760, construction of surplus weir cum foot bridge Rs 39,31,673, construction of diversion pipe-line Rs 96,75,650, and construction of silt traps (three) Rs 69,75,650.

Traffic fix for gateways of Bengaluru

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The gateways of Bengaluru may soon get a major infrastructure push for decongestion. Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday said that the priority was to ease congestion at five entry/exit points. He said the Goraguntepalya junction on Tumakuru Road was witnessing heavy traffic and there were plans to have multiple flyovers to ensure multi-layered traffic flow for decongestion. The government is also planning to widen the Hebbal flyover.

File photo of traffic congestion at the Outer Ring road area in the city

Lack of infrastructure

Bommai said, " While many cities are going vertical, Bengaluru's growth has been horizontal. Unfortunately, the growth is unplanned. Firstly, core Bengaluru was merged with neighbouring city/town municipal councils and 110 villages. These CMCs have become the city's busy areas. The CMC's infrastructure was never a match for the original Bengaluru's infrastructure. IT and BT corridors have come up on the periphery villages which are now witnessing heavy traffic."

The city's roads have not seen expansion in the last 25 years, he added.

Vehicles to outnumber people

The city is seeing an explosion of vehicles. "We are seeing at least 5,000 new vehicles being added to the roads daily. The city's population is estimated to be 1.25 crore. However, we expect that the city will have more vehicles than population in the next five years. The spurt in vehicles is adding to a lack of parking spaces. There are instances where people are blocking roads for parking," the CM said.

He said the city has an IISc study and other studies are also being reviewed. Due to the mounting traffic problems, an ADGP level officer (MA Saleem) was appointed to head the traffic wing. "We have also sanctioned five new traffic police stations. Now, we are developing a traffic command centre. There is a plan to strengthen the CCTV network. This is the reason why we have decided to use 7,000 CCTVs sanctioned under the Nirbhaya project for traffic surveillance as well," he said.

Virtual traffic fine

The CM said that traffic violations were now being monitored by cameras too, which is why police are collecting more fines via camera evidence. The state is also studying models from Shanghai, London, and New York to come up with solutions for congestion.

PRR mess

Bommai that the focus was to build Peripheral Ring Roads (PRR) and Satellite Ring Roads (STRR), but despite tenders being called thrice for PRR construction, no firm had shown interest. The lack of interest is due to land acquisition issues, he said.

"We will soon call for a high-level meeting to kick-start the PRR project. One of the ideas is to bifurcate two important issues like land acquisition and road making so that we can seek more interest from the construction firms," he added.

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Problems in your area?
Send us a picture along with specific details. And please, no phone calls or spamming

Move the cars

Haines Road

These two cars have been parked on Haines Road, Frazer Town for a couple of weeks. Authorities have not removed them.

Vexing van

Defence Colony

This van has been parked outside Muneshwara Swamy temple, Defence Colony for two years. Garbage is mounting around it, but the owner refuses to move it.

Repair urgently

Yelahanka

The road near the busy Anantapura gate beside Ramanashree California Resort, Yelahanka is badly damaged.

Tech geeks say yes to uniform charging ports

Bengaluraens welcome the Centre' s move to adopt USB type C as the standard charging port for electronic products by March 2025. The directive comes following a move by the European Union where all smart phones including I-phones need to have a common USB type C charging port. This is to minimise chargers and e-waste.

Reacting to this, Guru Kiran, a city-based software engineer said this would make life easier for people that have a lot of battery powered electronic gadgets." Given the rule is enforced on not only smartphones but other electronics as well, we finally could just toss a single charger into a backpack and head out. To think of a scenario where one's laptop, smartphone, tablets, earphones all charge with the same charger and cable is very relieving. I can currently think of two consequences - one related to the limitation of current technology, and the other related to the practices companies follow when rules like this are enforced on them."

USB type C is currently limited in terms of its ability to carry power, he said, adding that it is not an inconveniently low limit, but significantly lesser than the barrel plugs that powerful laptops use. Enforcing USB C might end up bottle-necking the charging rates of laptops for a while,

One of the drawbacks of the move that is largely appreciated by tech nerds in the city is that the USB type C is currently limited with regard to its ability to carry power

he further said.

Aviral Singh, a technical writer, said he wholeheartedly welcomes the move as it lays a foundation for future-proofing sustainable development of electronics. Since its advent in the commercial space in 2014, USB Type C has held a dominant position over USB Type A and Micro USB, he said. "My family and I have mainly adopted USB Type C and we are happy with the decision. Talking about consequences, in India for example, the majority of consumers are hooked to Micro USB due to its easy accessibility. Many electronic devices use Micro USB and adapting to USB Type C will be a tough change for consumers," added Singh.

Aditya Khokhar, a software developer said, "It is overall a good decision to have a common charging port as sometimes people struggle for a charger and don't get it, especially for iPhones." However, he said that for people using Bluetooth devices and mobile phones having A type ports, it might be a bit troublesome as they need to buy extra items for the same product they have been using for a while.

Srijan Shri, an Embedded Software Developer, said that Type C cables have higher power capabilities and more functionalities in comparison to USB type A connectors. On top of that, Type C being a symmetrical connector can be used anyway around. With the new rule being imposed, Apple will lose its monopoly of lightning ports, but in a way it will be useful as people will not have to rush with their chargers to every place they go to, he said.

—Soumya

Cure for mobility woes

Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Bill passed in Karnataka assembly

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Traffic jam in Kanakapura main road, Bommanahalli zone, in Bengaluru on Tuesday (File photo)

The Karnataka assembly passed the much-awaited Bengaluru Metropolitan Land Transport Authority (BMLTA) Bill on Tuesday that aims to bring all public mobility agencies under one umbrella. From autos and cabs to metro and public buses, all modes of public transport will now be integrated under one unified transport body that will take policy decisions.

Srinivas Alavilli, head of civic participation at Janaagraha, told Bangalore Mirror, "BMLTA is not some magic bullet, but it does some things that are sorely missing in our city.

Nobody has reliable data on how our city moves, how different modes of transport are used by citizens, or which areas need coverage. BMLTA will be empowered to collect and provide that data."

So far, the role of transportation and traffic management is fragmented in the city among several authorities.

They include the Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) for public bus service, Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) for infrastructure and parking-related policies, Bengaluru Metro Rail Corporation Limited (BMRCL) for the metro, the Transport Department, and so on.

"The other important role BMLTA is expected to play is coordination between different agencies like the metro, BMTC, suburban train, and BBMP so that projects are aligned and in the best interest of people. We missed some opportunities for excellent multi modal integration - for example, Cantonment station and Metro. BMLTA will ensure such things do not happen," added Alavilli.

Experts believe that with the introduction of the BMLTA Bill, policy making for mobility is likely to become more structured in the state.

Shreya Gadepalli, an urban mobility expert and founder of the UrbanWorks Institute, said, "Different agencies are in charge of different modes. Citizens are at the receiving end of this fragmentation. With unified planning and integration of travel modes, citizens will get seamless end-to-end connectivity.

Because of its absence, they are forced to shift to private motor vehicles and waste a lot of time and energy."

Gadepalli added that with the BMLTA Bill, the transport budget should also be unified. Crores are being spent on constructing elevated roads and metro, but Bangalore remains stuck in traffic, she said, adding that a unified outcome-based budget will ensure that only the most effective solutions make the cut.

Over the next few years, BMLTA must double buses and create priority lanes on major roads, she also said.

Mobility experts said that BMLTA is a great concept for integrated policy making, but it is necessary that a scientific study is done before implementing any policy in the city.

"I visited Singapore 15 years ago and saw how the Land Transport Authority (LTA) is integrating all the modes of transportation into

> **With unified planning and integration of travel modes, citizens will get end-to-end connectivity**
>
> – Shreya Gadepalli, mobility expert

an integral part of one transport network, one supporting the other. For example, in Bangalore, people travelling by the metro face first and last-mile connectivity issues. For that reason, they require one more mode of transport like cabs or minibuses that travel around a smaller radius.

Otherwise, people have to travel to the metro station by their personal vehicles, congesting roads," Traffic expert MN Sreehari told Bangalore Mirror.

CRIME FILES

5 held in 9-month-old murder case

Police have arrested five people accused in a murder that took place nine months ago. A man was brutally murdered and tortured for money, but the case came to light after nine months of the crime being committed.

The victim has been identified as Sharath. He had taken a loan and failed to return it. Sharath was kidnapped because of this by the accused nine months ago. According to the police, he was then taken to Chikkaballapur where he was tortured to death.

"He was killed and they threw his body in Charmadi Ghat. The accused had also sent a message from the victims' phone to his parents saying, 'I am leaving for work, don't try to look for me'. Sharath's parents believed that their son was abroad for work," said the police.

Later, acting on a tip off, Cubbon Park police arrested the five accused - Sarath, Manjunath, Sridhar, Venkatachalapathy, and Dhanush.

Rowdy-sheeters arrested

Meanwhile, Bangalore-based rowdy sheeters were caught by police for illegal sale of arms in Andhra Pradesh.

Anantapur police in Andhra Pradesh conducted a major operation and arrested a gang of notorious inter-state extortionists who were involved in counterfeit currency circulation and other illegal activities. 18 weapons, along with 95 bullets, have been recovered from the arrested. They were active in Andhra Pradesh, Karnataka, and Goa.

BBMP health inspector dies

A BBMP health inspector died in a bike accident on Monday. The victim, Prashant Naik, 27, died in a late-night accident on T Chowdaiah Road.

Prashant hit his head when his bike collided with the footpath. The deceased is a resident of JP Nagar and was on his way to his residence when the accident occurred. He was coming from Sadashivanagar.

A case has been registered at Sadashivanagar Traffic Police Station.

—Ahna Prakash

End of the road, BU decides

University shuts off road connecting to Nagarbhavi Circle, asks authorities to make other arrangements; commuters flummoxed

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Students hail move as the BU Road passes through several stretches rich in biodiversity

Bangalore University (BU) has decided to block the Nagarbhavi-Bangalore University Road for public use. BU registrar N Mahesh Babu wrote to the Bangalore Development Authority (BDA) stating that it wishes to close the road and asked authorities to make alternative arrangements.

In the letter, the registrar said, "There is severe congestion on the road that passes via university and connects Nagarbhavi Circle to university main office via Gandhi Bhavan. This is resulting in accidents and is troubling students. Hence, we have planned to shut the road for public use. We request you to make alternative arrangements."

The move has drawn mixed results. Currently, vehicles coming from Vijayanagar and Mysuru Road use the interior road passing via Nagarbhavi Circle and BU to reach Outer Ring Road (ORR) as the existing road via Nagarbhavi main road is quite crowded.

"It is a good move as the BU road is not just a varsity road but also passes via areas rich in biodiversity as the university campus is home to a lot of flora and fauna," said a BU student.

City
Alternative route to make BU's main road exclusive
Curriculum Framework that's student-friendly & flexible
BM's report on December 15

"The traffic during peak hours on this road is such that it looks like any other busy road of the city. This definitely affects the students who are now even scared to walk next to the road (as there are no footpaths)," they added.

However, Nitish R, a resident of Nagarbhavi, said, "As the university campus is huge, we need to have passage via the varsity to move from one end to another in the absence of alternative roads. Moreover, there are a number of other institutions like NAAC and NLSIU where students can use this road to head to Jnanabharati Metro station, Mysuru road, or Kengeri. If this road is barred for public use, then the students and staff of those institutions have to take a detour."

> **"The traffic during peak hours affect students who are now even scared to walk next to the road**
> –a BU student

Earlier, as reported by BM, BU had proposed to the authorities to construct a peripheral road along the varsity so that the varsity roads are not used by the public.

Currently, among many roads that cross the university, the main road that connects Mysuru Road to ORR and Nagarabhavi Road to BU headquarters are used by thousands of vehicles daily. With a spate of accidents, there have been protests to bar these public roads inside the campus. However, as these roads are the main arterial road that connects one part of the city to another, BBMP and BDA are insisting the varsity to not close the roads for the public.

"We are planning to create a road in our periphery so that the public can use that road and not enter the university at all," Babu said.

Covid fear: Textile industry seeks relief

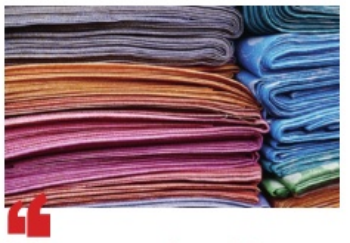
Traders request package for industry to avoid layoffs, enhanced audit limit and other measures

With resurgence of covid in other nations, the textile industry is now wary of its impact and has sought a relief package. The Karnataka Hosiery and Garment Association has written to PM Narendra Modi and Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman stating that the Centre should provide a relief package for the textile and readymade garment industry, so that it can support a huge workforce, and mitigate any risks of layoff in the industry.

"We thank the government for listening to the traders' request last year by not increasing goods and services tax (GST) rates for readymade garments. The Indian economy has been able to withstand the rigors caused due to inflation and recession fears throughout the world till now," said the letter.

"However, there is fear in the industry due to the recent spike in covid cases, and its impact on the Indian economy. We request to remove the anomaly completely by bringing textile and readymade garments under a single rate of 5 percent on all textile and readymade garments, irrespective of value, which would enhance the ease of doing business," it added.

According to Prakash Kumar T Bhojani, association president, the garment association urges the government to enhance the audit limits to Rs 10 crore without any conditions attached.



> **"We request not to take any drastic measures such as lockdown**
> – Giridharlal Purohit, treasurer

"At present, the income tax audit clause of Rs 10 crore is equipped with various conditions leading to anomaly and hardship to the trade. Similarly, GST annual return filing for all the future years should also be enhanced to Rs 10 crores," he said.

"Another area of concern in the GST regime is the restriction on utilisation of input tax credit (ITC) to the extent of 99 per-cent of the output tax for those with turnover of over Rs 50 lakh per month, which leads to working capital issues for genuine traders who have purchased more, but their sales have not been in consonance with the purchases," he added.

"Though we are thankful to the government for the quarterly return monthly payment scheme introduced for small traders having turnover up to Rs 5 crore, tax payment is to be made on a monthly basis. Hence, we urge the government to provide a quarterly return- "quarterly payment" scheme to ease the working capital requirements in the industry," said association secretary Kailash Balar.

Association treasurer Giridharlal Purohit, added, "We request not to take any drastic measures such as lockdown as it may lead to collapse of various small traders."

—Prakash VL

City schools without internet

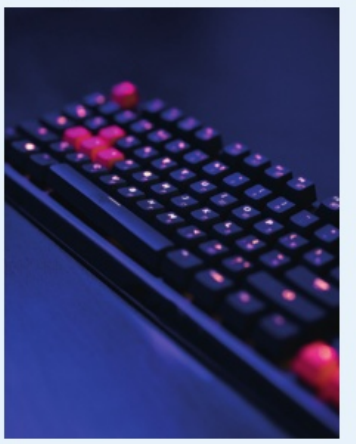
CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

down severely. Internet facilities and computer labs are still far-fetched, the schools do not even have basic facilities. There are not enough teachers who are trained and eligible to provide the level of education required. Karnataka has one of the highest vacancies for teachers in all Indian states. This creates inferiority among children going to these public schools... When other students talk about smart classes, video lectures, etc., the students feel incompetent," public education expert Niranjan Aradhya told Bangalore mirror.

Experts added that lack of these facilities might lead to a drop in the learning level of students going to government schools as compared to students of same age group in private schools.

Schools representatives BM spoke to said after the pandemic, the need for internet facilities increased in the education sector.

"Most of the private aided schools also have labs. Internet facility is a different thing; anyone who can afford phones, wifi hotspot and so on, can have access to the internet. Some schools still lack these facilities; however, since the pandemic most schools are now equipped," said D Shashi Kumar, secretary, Associated Managements



of Primary and Secondary Schools, Karnatkaka (KAMS).

"At government schools, the main issue is they do not even have the computer systems or seating facility. Schools are unable to afford the systems; the internet is a recurring cost for the schools," he added.

Nationwide, about 66% of schools lack access to the internet, as per the UDISE+ report for 2021-22. The report added that less than 50% of schools surveyed had functional computers alongside accessible and functional mobile phones for teaching purposes just at 20% of institutions.

In India, 59.6% of private and unaided schools and 53.1% government-aided schools surveyed had internet access; only 24.2% of government schools have access to internet and computers.

HEALTH TIP: Carrots are a good source of potassium, which can help reduce elevated blood pressure levels

Broad beans are rich in zinc, which is good for your immune system and wound healing

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FEEL THE BEAT

Heart rate variability – what to know about this biometric most fitness trackers measure

Your heart beats around 100,000 times every day. Heart rate is a key marker of cardiovascular activity and an important vital sign. But your pulse is not as steady as a precision clock – nor would you want it to be.

As a cardiovascular physiologist, I measure heart rate in nearly every experiment my students and I perform. Sometimes we use an electrocardiogram, such as you'd see in a medical clinic, which uses sticky electrodes to measure electrical signals between two points of your body. Other times we use a chest strap monitor, like ones you might see on someone at the gym, which also detects heartbeats based on electrical activity.

As wearable technology has grown more popular, it's not just researchers and cardiologists who are paying attention to heart rate. You might be monitoring your own all day long via a fitness tracker you wear on your wrist. This kind of wearable device uses green light to detect blood flow beneath your skin and deduces your heart rate.

Here are what heart rate and other measurements derived from this biometric can tell you about your body's health.

Pumping blood where it needs to go

The heart's primary job is to contract and generate pressure that helps pump blood to the lungs to be oxygenated and then on to the rest of the body to deliver oxygen and other nutrients. Heart rate is simply how fast your heart is beating. Sometimes called a pulse rate, it's normally presented in beats per minute. You can count your own heart rate by feeling for your pulse inside your wrist or behind your jaw.

When your body demands more oxygen, such as during exercise, heart rate will increase along with the increasing workloads.

While many people are familiar with tracking their heart rate during exertion, the heart rate at rest can also provide valuable information. The two parts of the autonomic nervous system, the sympathetic and parasympathetic, influence resting heart rate. The sympathetic branch helps coordinate your body's stress response. The more active it is, the higher it dials up your heart rate, preparing you for fight or flight.

The parasympathetic branch of your nervous system is responsible for keeping lots of your body's functions running smoothly while you're at ease. Via the vagus nerve that runs from the brain all the way to the abdomen, the parasympathetic nervous system actively slows the heart down to resting values between 60 and 100 beats per minute for the average healthy adult. Without any parasympathetic activity putting the brakes on the sympathetic nervous system's signals, your heart would beat at approximately 100 beats per minute.

> **When your body demands more oxygen, such as during exercise, heart rate will increase along with the increasing workloads**

A lower resting heart rate indicates an efficient heart and a higher level of parasympathetic activity. When you're at rest your nervous system is ideally minimizing sympathetic activity, so you're conserving energy and avoiding unnecessary stress to the body.

Time between each heartbeat

One specific way to understand the balance of the nervous system's influence on heart rate is to look at heart rate variability, or HRV – the slight fluctuation in the time between each heartbeat. Even if your heart rate is 60 beats a minute, that doesn't mean your heart is pumping exactly once every second.

Less variability is a sign that your body is under greater stress and that the balance in your autonomic nervous system is tipping toward the sympathetic branch being in charge. Greater variability suggests you're more relaxed and your parasympathetic nervous system is in control.

For nearly 30 years, scientists have been interested in how to measure and interpret HRV, specifically as it relates to this balance of autonomic control.

The clinical utility of HRV emerged in patients following cardiac events, but researchers are now considering how this measure can help explain patient outcomes in a range of cardiac, endocrine and psychiatric disorders.

More recently, researchers have investigated how to use HRV in athletic training and prognosis of medical conditions.

Several fitness wearables also report heart rate variability, either as a stand-alone metric or used in the calculation of "readiness" or "recovery" scores. Endurance athletes now commonly track HRV as one way to monitor their overall physiological state.

Researchers have started checking which commercially available wearable devices are most reliable and accurate at measuring HRV, which can vary from tracker to tracker. Many of these devices use colored lights, or optical sensors, to measure pulse rate and other variables at the wrist or finger. Unfortunately, the accuracy of this method can vary based on skin type and skin color. It is important that companies include diverse populations in the design, testing and validation of these products to help address potential racial health disparities.

Nudging HRV in a good direction

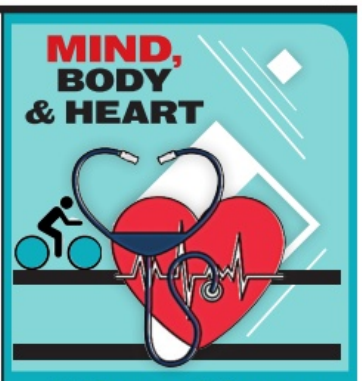
One of the biggest influences on heart rate variability is stress; along with increased sympathetic nervous system activity, stress is associated with lower HRV. Stress-reducing interventions, biofeedback and increased fitness can increase heart rate variability. Remember, an increase is good for this metric. Overall, heart rate variability depends on a range of physiological, psychological, environmental, lifestyle and nonmodifiable genetic factors.

The most useful way to consider heart rate variability as a metric is to look at data trends. Are there consistent changes in HRV in either direction? Examine these changes alongside other health factors such as fitness, mood, illness, sleep and dietary intake to see if you can draw any conclusions about lifestyle modifications you may want to make.

In general, the same approaches you would take to lowering resting heart rate can also improve heart rate variability, such as increasing cardiovascular fitness, maintaining a healthy weight, reducing stress and getting sufficient sleep.

It's important to remember that heart rate variability is the normal, healthy, very slight fluctuation of timing of heartbeats – just milliseconds of difference from beat to beat. More dramatic changes in heart rhythms or the way in which the heart contracts, known as arrhythmias, may signal a more serious condition that requires medical attention.

— Anne R Crecelius (University of Dayton) for The Conversation



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

My husband went to his office Christmas party last week and afterwards a woman he'd chatted to that night emailed him to say she'd enjoyed their conversation and found him very attractive.
He told me straight away and said he was surprised because they'd only had a fairly brief conversation.
I was glad he told me and I advised him to just ignore it. However, she's sent him a couple of emails since, one under the guise of a work query and the other inviting him to go for lunch with her. I'm starting to get annoyed. She must know he's married with children, but she seems to have her sights firmly set on him.
My husband isn't good in these situations and I know he won't want to create any bad feeling at work, but I'm worried that if he doesn't shut it down things will get worse. I'd love some advice.

COLEEN SAYS

This woman has been pretty direct with your husband, so I think he needs to be equally direct with her and make it clear, politely, that he's not interested in a romantic relationship with her or anyone else because he's happily married.
If he feels awkward about saying this face-to-face, then he can put it in an email or a text message.
Hopefully, she'll back off but, if she carries on, then perhaps you should answer the next email, so she sees you as a person and understands that there are no secrets between you and your husband.
But, for me, it's really up to your husband to shut this unwanted attention down.
I think unless he's very direct, then she'll assume she's in with a chance.
The good thing is, your husband hasn't hidden this from you or tried to minimise it in any way.
It shows his head and his heart are in the right place.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, PRATIBHA MISHRA D/o Vijay Pal Mishra R/a #47, 1st Main Road, S.T.Bedlayout, Koramangla 4th Block, Opp. R.B.Hospitality, near Maharaja Signal, Bangalore-34 have changed my name to PRATIBHA MISHRRA affidavit dt 26.12.22 notary V.Rajashekhara, B.lore.

I Mohammed iqbal Shaik S/O Ibrahim R/o No 81 6/7 7th A cross Kempagowda layout Nageshwara Nagenahalli Bangalore 560077 have changed my name to Mohammed Iqbal Shaikh for all future purposes

I, SUDHAKAR MAHADEO DESHMUKH S/O MAHADEO DESHMUKH R/O Plot No.32, Shiv Nagari, Khat Road, Bhandara, Maharashtra-441904. I have changed my name from SUDHAKARRAO MAHADEO DESHMUKH to SUDHAKAR MAHADEO DESHMUKH for all future purposes Vide Affidavit Dated 22.12.2022 Sworn before Advocate & Notary Chandrakala, Bengaluru.

I, RAJESHA @ RAJESH ACHARYA .P S/o Krishnaiah Acharya, resident of No. 276, 3rd Main Road, 5th Cross, Vidhanasoudha Layout, Laggere, Bangalore - 560088 have changed my name to RAJESH ACHARYA vide affidavit dated 27.12.2022 sworn before notary Renuka .C, B.lore

I, Nasreen Banu, W/O Mohammed Iqbal shaikh, D/O Mohammed Taqi, R/O No 81 6/7 7th A cross Kempagowda layout Nageshwara Nagenahalli Bangalore 560077 has changed my name to Nasreen Banu shaikh for all future purposes

I, Mohamed Owais Qarni resident at No.11/2, 2nd Floor, 4th Cross, Gandhi Nagar, K.G Halli, Bangalore-560045 have changed my name to MOHAMMED OWAIS QARNI vide affidavit dated 27.12.2022 sworn before notary B.S Padma Prasad, Bangalore.

I, Bysani Girija (Old Name) W/O Bysani Ramprasad R/O 15-3-10, Hindupur-515201, S.S-Dt, A.P have changed my name to Bysani Ramprasad Girija (New Name) Henceforth i am being called as Bysani Ramprasad Girija.

I,BYSANI Nagaraju Ramprsad (Old Name) S/O Bysani Nagaraju R/O 15-3-10, Hindupur-515201, S.S-Dt, A.P have changed my name to Bysani Ramprasad (New Name) Henceforth I am being called as Bysani Ramprasad

I, Syed Iqbal Syed Rasool resident at No.23, 3rd Cross, Annipura road, Sudhama Nagar, Bangalore-560027 have changed my name to SYED IQBAL vide affidavit dated 27.12.2022 sworn before notary B.S Padma Prasad, Bangalore.

I, Aishwariya.M w/o Ravikumar.K R/o #A-132, Purvankara the sound of water, Kammanahalli, Bengaluru 560083 have changed my name to Aishwarya Ravikumar affidavit Dt.27/12/ 2022 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Chandramma w/o Madaiah Mahadevaiah R/o 13/2 2nd Main Rd Nanjamba Agrahara Chamarajpet B'luru-560018 have changed my name to Chandramma Nanjaiah for all purposes.

I Uma Sanjay Shanbhag W/O, Sanjay Ramesh Shanbhag R/o # 55/1 1st Flr 2nd Main R.K Matt Ext K.G Nagar Bangalore 560019 have changed my name to Jayalakshmi Sanjay Shanbhag for all purposes

I, Shaik Abdul Rahman S/o Shaik Abdul Khader R/o #190, 5th main, Minaznagar, JP nagar, Bengaluru 560078 have changed my name to Shaik Abdul Rahaman, affidavit Dt.27/12/2022 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I, Santosh N s/o Nataraj S.M R/o #20, 5th cross, 27th main, VGS Layout Ejipura Bengaluru 560047 have changed my name to Santosh Michael Nataraj affidavit Dt.27/12/2022 notary Ganesh Gowda M.V, B'luru

I Andleeb W/O, Anees Gulzar Bhat R/o C, 356 , Mahaveer Tuscan, Basavanagr, Hoodi Stop, Whitefield -560048 have changed my name to Andleeb Bhat for all purposes.

I, Varsha Chaudhari D/O, Kisan Mukund Chaudhari R/o G-10, Purvi Pristine,ecc Road, Pattandur Agrahara, B'luru-560066 have changed my name to Varsha Kisan Chaudhari for all purposes.

I Josephine W/o Prasad Rajanna R/o 4/1 Mariam Nilaya, Doddabanaswadi B'luru-560043 have changed my name to Janani P for all purposes

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4 Ethiopian heart patients given another shot at life

State-run Jayadeva Hospital coordinates with Rotary International to perform life-saving surgeries at subsidised rate for kids, who have been waiting for years

| Iffath Fathima
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The state-run tertiary care centre, Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences recently treated four Ethiopian patients successfully conducting open heart surgeries on them. The patients had been struggling for many years together to get the surgery done.

Due to lack of health facilities and a shortage of cardiac surgeons, the Ethiopians were finding it difficult to get the surgeries done, in spite of knowing their condition. If the condition would have been left as is for longer, there would be further defects and the condition would turn inoperable leading to death of the patient. But, timely intervention from the doctors of Jayadeva Hospital gave them new lives.

Of the four, two were blue babies, one was suffering from Double Outlet Right Ventricle and the other from a large hole in the heart with Severe Pulmonary Hypertension.

The other two are 16-year-old Tibebesilasse Kassahun from Guleli and six-year-old Kejan Haile from Angecha who were suffering from tetralogy of fallot. "Tetralogy of fallot is a birth defect that affects normal blood flow through the heart. It happens when a baby's heart does not form correctly in the mother's womb. Hence it is a congenital heart defect. Such cases can have various complications like delayed growth and development and even other heart problems. Surgery is the only option for such patients," said Dr CN Manjunath, Director of Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences.

Some of the conditions that the patients were suffering from would turn inoperable later if left untreated for long

Twelve-year-old Mezida Abdu from Kolfe Kerano was suffering from a double outlet right ventricle and required a complex intraventricular tunnel operation. And 13-year-old Bilen Workineh from Buralew required surgery for Ventricular Septal Defect (VSD) and patent ductus arteriosus (PDA).

Dr Manjunath said, "The children were waiting for years for a foreign surgical team. The parents stated that they do not have paediatric cardiac surgeons to perform complex congenital heart surgeries. One child was listed in Israel but because of covid, they could not go there. One out of every 1,000 babies born, 6-7 will have these complex congenital diseases more commonly in the form of tetralogy of fallot, heart holes or narrowing of the valves. The usual symptoms of heart holes are fever, recurrent cough, common cold, Pneumonia, growth retardation and bluish discolouration of skin and nails and poor weight gain. Most of these children with these diseases die before the age of 10 years, if not operated."

> **"The parents stated they do not have paediatric cardiac surgeons to perform complex congenital heart surgeries back home**
> – Dr CN Manjunath, Jayadeva Institute

The patients were from financially constrained families who didn't have funds for the surgery. The Rotary International at Ethiopia had contacted Bangalore Rotary International District 3190 and Needy Heart Foundation Rotarians. These associations contacted the Jayadeva Hospital, the doctors asked for all the medical reports of these patients to be sent through mail for further advice and treatment.

"The Paediatric Cardiac Surgeons studied all the cases and decided to call them for surgery during the first week of December and they were admitted on December 7. All the procedures were successfully carried out with a team of doctors headed by doctors PS Seetharama Bhat, Divya, Chirag, Chandrasena along with other associate doctors and staff. The surgeries were performed at a subsidised cost," said Dr Manjunath.

The patients flew back to Ethiopia on Monday.

Brouhaha over smoking zone at restaurants

A tug of war has sparked off between hotels and Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) over the creation of designated smoking zones. The debate was triggered following a notice issued by the BBMP to a restaurant in RR Nagar stating that the hotel which has a seating capacity of 30-plus had failed to create a designated smoking zone which was in violation of Cigarettes and Other Tobacco Products Act (COTPA). The authorities have asked the hotel to immediately create the zone and revert with compliance failing which action will be initiated.

Reacting to this, BBMP Hotels Association president PC Rao said, "We are against the creation of dedicated smoking zones. As of now, we are displaying 'no smoking' boards at all our hotels. We don't encourage smoking and so there is no need for designated smoking zones."

However, BBMP officials cite the COPTA provisions. As per the Centre's notification, hotels with a seating capacity of 30 or more may provide for a smoking area or space as defined. "Smoking areas should not be established at the entrance or exit and should be marked as smoking areas in English and the regional language. A smoking area should be used only for the purpose of smoking and no other services should be allowed. The area should be ventilated and smoke should not infiltrate/permeate into the non-smoking zones," the notification stated. **— BMB**

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Maha resolution: Against federal structure, says CM

Terming Maharashtra Legislature's resolution on the border issue as "irresponsible and against federal structure," Karnataka Chief Minister Basavaraj Bommai on Tuesday once again asserted that not even an inch of the state's land will be ceded.

He also expressed confidence about getting justice in the Supreme Court, as Karnataka's stand on the issue is both legal and constitutional.

"We strongly condemn Maharashtra's resolution, it has been so long since the State Reorganisation Act 1956 came in, and people on both sides are living peacefully. Maharashtra has the practice of making such statements and resolutions for the sake of their politics," Bommai said.

Speaking to reporters here, he said Karnataka is firm and clear on its stand that it will not cede even an inch of land, and that his government is committed to protect the interest of Kannadigas on the other side of the border.

Amit Shah held a meeting on Maharashtra-Karnataka border issue in New Delhi on December 15

"Look at the difference between our resolution and theirs, we are saying that we will not cede our land, while they want to take our land. There is no meaning to such things when the matter is before the Supreme Court. We are confident about getting justice as our stand is both constitutional and legal," he added.

The Maharashtra Legislature today unanimously passed a resolution to "legally pursue" inclusion of 865 Marathi-speaking villages in Karnataka into the western state, amid the raging boundary dispute between the two states. The resolution moved by Eknath Shinde in both Houses of the Maharashtra legislature said the Karnataka Legislature had passed a resolution on the issue to purposely fuel the border row and condemned the southern state's stand.

Stating that Karnataka's resolution was constitutional and legal, Bommai said, "Maharashtra's resolution is opposite to it. The whole nation is watching. It is against the federal structure. It is irresponsible and we condemn it." The Karnataka Legislative Assembly last week had unanimously passed a resolution on the border row, resolving to protect the state's interests and not to cede an inch of land to its neighbour. **— PTI**

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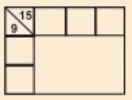
SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

$4(X \div 12^2) \times 8! = 20160$
$X = ?$

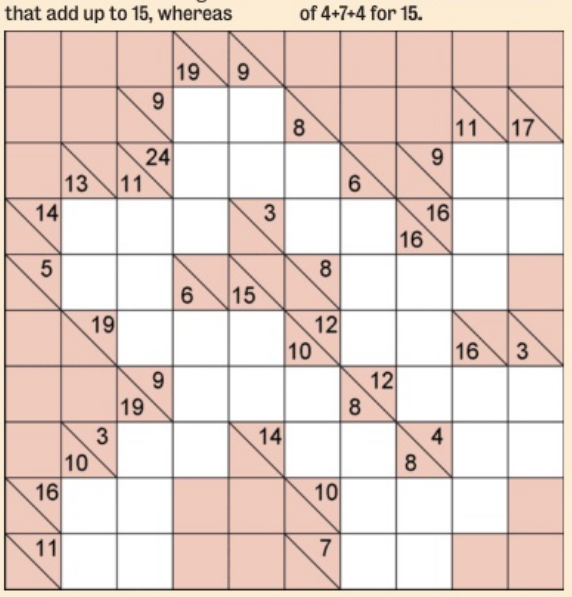
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

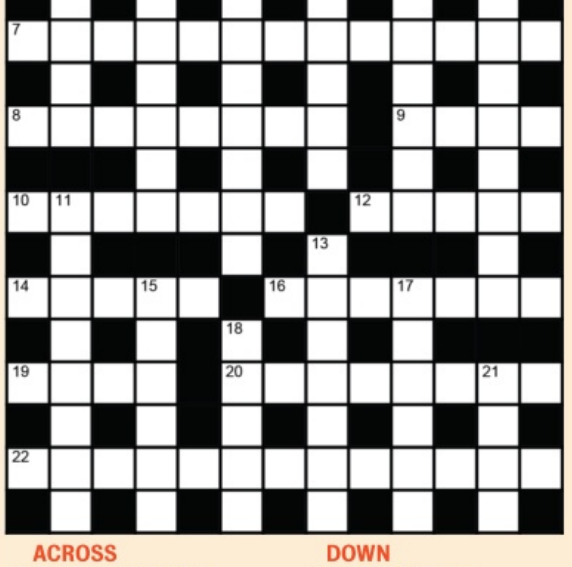


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

7 Upright, vertical (13)
8 Remnant (8)
9 Footnote word (4)
10 Evening meals (7)
12 Inebriated (5)
14 Water vapour (5)
16 Type of cheese (7)
19 Hindu god of fire (4)
20 And so on (2,6)
22 M G in M G Road? (7,6)

DOWN

1 At this place (4)
2 Absolutely right or accurate? (4,2)
3 Dishonesty (7)
4 Jewelled head-band (5)
5 Shake with a slight but rapid motion, tremble (6)
6 Fragrant white flower (8)
11 Intrinsic to (8)
13 Windy City of USA (7)
15 Creature (6)
17 Over-affectionate (6)
18 Appears to be? (5)
21 Essen valley (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: J EQUALS U

QHJ'NV DI ENVZZQ MHHL RC-GEV AHN ZCV RCGEV QHJ GNV DI.-LN. RVJRR

Linemaro

Aside from food, you are my favourite

Mindchow

Sometimes the fall kills you. And sometimes, when you fall, you fly

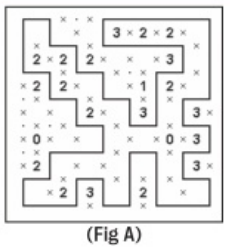
Joke of the day

Crying is for plain women. Pretty women go shopping - Oscar Wilde

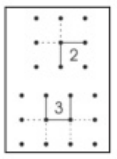
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

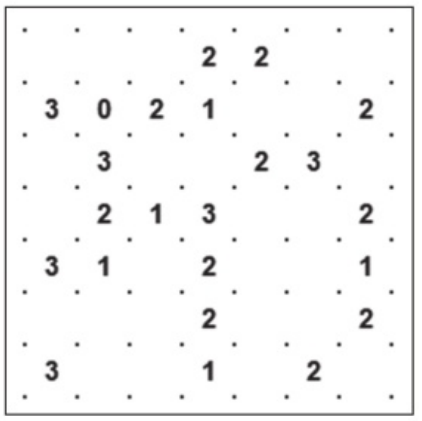


(Fig B) Not Allowed

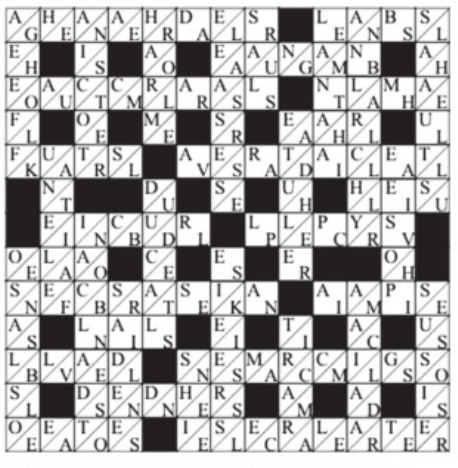
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) - Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1 D	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9				

ACROSS

1 Sward; 6 Rites; 7 To duo; 8 I rose; 9 Pryer

DOWN

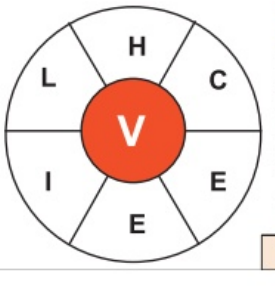
1 Do Pro; 2 Us ere; 3 Stair; 4 Weird; 5 Troys

Mensapuzzle

What number should replace the question mark?

100, 99.5, 98.5, 97, 95, 92.5, 89.5, ?

Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

05 Average; **06** Good; **08** Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

6						5		
	7	5			2	8		
	8			3		7	1	
			5	8		4		
8								5
		4		1	7			
	3	8		4			9	
		1	7			3	8	
		9						6

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 9

2 3 3 4

Medium = 42

3 6 9 9

Hard = 12

3 7 7 4

Hocusfocus

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

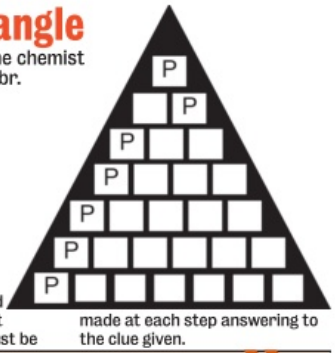
Differences: 1. Arm is longer. 2. Chair behind door is moved. 3. Bow tie is missing. 4. Picture frame on desk is moved. 5. Ear is different. 6. Handkerchief in pocket is moved.

Riddler

You are driving on a road when suddenly lightning strikes right in front of you. When you can see again, there are three doors to the side of the car. One has 5 million dollars behind it, one has fame (when you walk through it you will become famous instantly), and the last one has your dream vacation place. Which door do you go through first?

Alpha triangle

1 Phosphorus for the chemist
2 Extended play, abbr.
3 For each
4 Unsullied
5 Puritan
6 Trimmed.a.bush
7 Loot



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

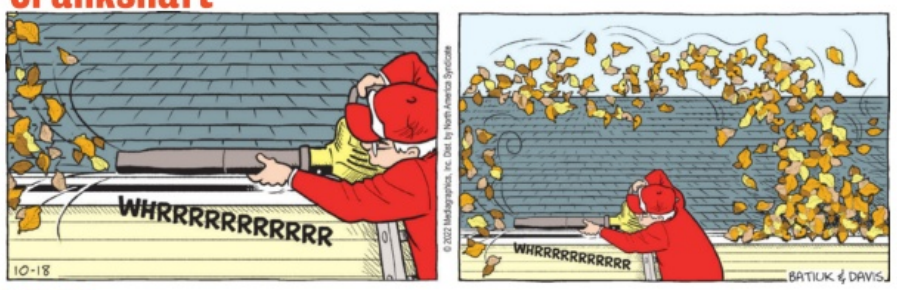
Redeye by Mel Casson

Bizarrotrip

Diamond Lil

Hart of the city

Crankshaft



Mutts

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may be blessed by the moon. You may get some good position after your hard work. Your working efficiency may be improved, which may boost your confidence. You may also meet some influential person who may give you direction to improve your life. Your parents' health is also under control.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today you may be happy and things may be somehow better. You may plan to visit a spiritual place. It may give you inner strength. You may also donate some money charity or help needy people. You can expect overseas travel for education or work. Singles may find their suitable match.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel unhappy and dull It affects your way of working.
There may be some delay in your current projects. It is advised to separate your professional life with your domestic life, otherwise it may affect harmony in your domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of a new job.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may feel positive vibrations around you. Things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in your partnership. You may expect some long-distance travel too. You will build faith with your spouse, which will bring harmony to your domestic life.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may perform your best in the office. You may create a good bond with your boss. You may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured now. You may get good incentives for your work also. Disputes with siblings may be resolved now. Job seekers may find a new job.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today your kids' education can keep you busy. You may plan for their higher studies too. Couples may hear good news in terms of children. You may want to update your skills and make some plans for higher studies for getting promotions in your current job. Singles may find their soulmate. Those related to education, consultants, bankers will do well.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may feel dissatisfied. You may not be able to handle your responsibilities. Your investments may give you some losses. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature on them. Elders' health may leave you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house, but it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today you may be busy at work. Your network may be increased, and with the help of it, you are likely to get a big order in terms of business and work. You are likely to start innovations in partnerships. You may get some investments in your business, which will increase it in near futures. Your emotional relationship with your spouse will be improved.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may be busy with your family and feel happy in their company. You may expect some new sources of income, which may boost your financial health. You may have control over your expenditure on worthless things. You may buy some worthwhile things which will increase your social status.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, elders will help you try and improve your patience. Your focus may come back, which may help you to achieve your goals. You may perform well in terms of business and domestic life. There may be some balance between expenditure and savings. It may boost your savings.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today some dissatisfaction may creep into your mind. You may feel lazy and dull. It affects your current speed at a project, delaying it. Lovebirds are advised to avoid any important decision in terms of marriage. Job seekers may get disappointments in terms of interviews.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today your internal power can make you happy. You may get short gains in terms of investments. You may build good relations with your boss. You may see some promotions. Your prestige in society may be increased. You may also expect some work-related travels.

KIDZONE

Adithya Prasad, 7 Years, Brigade School

Aishwarya Madhavan, 5 Years, Cambridge Public School

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
4(X+144)x8!=20160
1612BO(X+144)=20160
1120X=20160
X=18

BULL'S EYE
chive, evil, hive, iive, VEHICLE, veil, vice, vile

STRIKE OUT

G	E	N	E	R	A	L	S	■	L	A	B	E	L	■
E	■	I	■	O	■	E	A	G	A	N	■	H	■	■
F	■	E	■	S	■	E	A	R	■	L	■	■	■	■
F	U	R	L	■	V	E	R	T	I	C	A	L	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	L	O	■	C	■	S	■	R	■	O	■	■	■	■
T	■	■	D	■	E	■	H	■	E	■	■	■	■	■
I	N	C	U	R	■	P	E	P	Y	S	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
N	E	B	R	A	S	K	A	■	A	M	P	S	■	■
L	■	S	E	D	E	R	M	■	D	■	I	■	■	■
B	L	E	D	■	N	E	A	R	M	I	S	S	■	■
A	■	L	I	L	■	I	■	A	■	U	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
E	■	N	■	S	■	I	■	O	■	■	■	■	■	■
S	T	E	A	M	■	C	H	E	D	D	A	R	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
D	■	I	■	E	■	H	■	D	R	U	■	K	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
A	G	N	I	■	E	T	C	E	T	E	R	A	■	■
M	A	H	A	T	M	A	G	A	N	D	H	I	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
R	■	M	■	E	■	A	■	I	■	U	■	■	■	■
L	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

FAST FIVE

D	R	A	W	S
R	E	S	I	T
O	U	T	D	O
O	S	I	E	R
P	E	R	R	Y

RIDDLER
The car door!

QUICK

■	■	L	■	S	■	O	■	G	■	R	■	■	■	■
■	■	L	■	S	■	O	■	G	■	R	■	■	■	■
■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
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■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■

QUOTE UNCODE
You're in pretty good shape for the shape you are in. – Dr. Seuss

MENSA PUZZLE
86: the amount deducted increases by 0.5 each time, ie 0.5, 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 3, 3.5

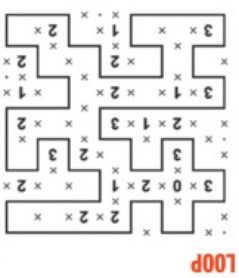
SUDOKU

6	9	3	8	7	1	5	4	2
1	7	5	4	9	2	8	6	3
4	8	2	6	3	5	7	1	9
9	2	6	5	8	3	4	7	1
8	1	7	2	6	4	9	3	5
3	5	4	9	1	7	6	2	8
5	3	8	1	4	6	2	9	7
2	6	1	7	5	9	3	8	4
7	4	9	3	2	8	1	5	6

ALPHA TRIANGLE
P, EP, Per, Pure, Prude, Pruned, Plunder.

GO FIGURE
4 – 2 x 3 + 3 = 9
Easy
3 x 9 + 9 + 6 = 42
Medium
3 – 7 + 7 x 4 = 12
Hard

LOOP



KAKURO

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Family time Jennifer Lopez shared details of a special Christmas on the 'J.Lo Newsletter.' She described their blended family holiday, which included her 14-year-old twins, together with Ben Affleck's three children

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Star gazing

Five most talked about B-Town stars in 2022

2022 saw some major newsmakers. Some excelled with box office success when it was hard to come by, while others courted chaos with social media fans and disgruntled followers. As every year, Bollywood stars were on a hotbed of activity. Here are the five most talked about stars from 2022. **— Subhash K Jha, ETimes**

Kartik Aaryan

A blockbuster Bhool Bhulaiya 2 during a year of demoniacal disasters, an OTT premier Freddy at year-end which proved his performing skills... Kartik Aaryan was the trafficstopper of the year. The Bollywood myth personified, of the outsider who broke the chain of nepo-dom. Kartik is on the fast track to the top of the marquee. His next release Shehzada could clinch the deal.

Ranveer Singh

While his better-half got into trouble for what she wore, Ranveer courted controversy for what he didn't wear. He realized the hard way that no nudes is good news. Ranveer, who loves attention, went a little too far when his nude photoshoot got splashed everywhere. Not everyone was amused/thrilled/excited by Ranveer shedding a lot more than his inhibitions. On the work front he remained in the news for both his films this year Jayeshbhai Jordaar and Cirkus flopping at the box office.

Shah Rukh Khan

Besharam Rang, has been turned into a rather rude description for saffron. More so, when the colour is on a bikini. And to top it all, the beautiful Deepika Padukone is in that bikini. At year end Shah Rukh Khan, who is seen male-gazing Deepika Padukone's saffron avatar, was wrestling with FIRs and effigies. The song is likely to be kept out of Pathan when the film releases next month.

Jacqueline Fernandez

The expensive gifts from an admirer proved to be a little too costly. Jacqueline was repeatedly summoned by the authorities about her association with alleged extortionist Sukesh Chandrasekar. Not the best way to stay in the news. To add to her woes every single film featuring her in 2022, from Bachchan Pandey to Cirkus turned out to be a disaster.

Samantha Ruth Prabhu

One's heart reaches out to this beautiful and talented actor. First came the unexpected divorce. Then all her efforts to establish herself in Bollywood came to nought. Then the final blow: a rare and life-threatening skin disease which has put her out of circulation for now. All one can say in consolation is, this too shall pass.

SANDALWOOD SHOTS
Y MAHESWARA REDDY

Ode to Bengaluru

Debutante director Pradeep Sastri and his team are all set to pay a humble tribute to Namma Bengaluru. His movie Made In Bengaluru is scheduled for release on December 30.

"Bengaluru is not only a city known for its startups, but is also home to many people from different states. The uniqueness of Bengauru is it welcomes and embraces outsiders. We have embarked on a journey to showcase the salient features of Bengaluru," said Sastri.

Sastri told BM the film is about three youths from middle-class families who want to set up a startup and the problems they face and how Bengaluru helps them to realise their dreams. "Our movie is not just about the gulmohar trees or the beautiful locations. It focuses on how Bengaluru inspires outsiders to call it as their home (Mother Bengaluru)," the director said. He said the movie has a variety of characters, including venture capitalists, gangsters, cricket aficionados, crooks, founders with fancy airs and disheartened failures.

"The movie was entirely shot at a multiplex and other locations in the city," he said. Anant Nag, Sai Kumar, Prakash Belawadi, Puneet Manja, Vamshidhar, and others are acting in this film.

Love triangle

Director Umesh Gowda is confident that his third movie, O Manase, will be a hit. Prior to this, Umesh directed Agamya in 2013 and Halli Panchayathi in 2017. O Manase's teaser was released at Suchitra Film Society on Monday. "O Manase is a triangular love story. There is no dearth for triangular love stories in Kannada but my movie is quite different and it is based on a real life incident that took place in North Karnataka," said Umesh.

According to Umesh, the script was written after the first wave of covid pandemic and narrated to one producer. "I am happy that producer Ramu evinced interest in bankrolling this movie along with his friends when I narrated the script. Later, I narrated it to Vijay Raghavendra and Dharma Keerthiraj, who also got on board. I selected Sanchita Padukone to play the lead female in this movie," the director said.

At the teaser launch, Vijay Raghavendra said he plays a police officer in the movie. "I am getting opportunities to play police officers in more movies due to my role in O Manase," he said.

According to Dharma Keerthiraj, the story is about the two protagonists falling in love with Sanchita Padukone.